

MILEAGE

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CHESTERTON HERE;
TALKS OF LIBERTY

Sees Paradox in Prohibition
Following the Declaration
of Independence.

BEGINS LECTURE TOUR

Calls Chicago and Jerusalem
the Extremes of Civ-
ilization.

Gilbert Keith Chesterton, distinguished English novelist and publicist, resting his bulky frame yesterday in a lounge of the Hotel Biltmore soon after his arrival on the Kaiserin Augusta Victoria for a three months' lecture tour, wondered as he smoked a cigar and spilled ashes over himself—though careful to put his burnt matches back in the box—whether he wasn't violating some amendment to the Constitution by puffing.

"I don't know whether that's against the Fourteenth Amendment or not," he told the New York reporters—a species he was meeting for the first time, as this is the initial occasion on which he has ventured to fabricate paradoxes here. "As a matter of fact, I don't know which amendment in your Constitution provides for prohibition, but I know it's there, and I don't approve of it. Not because it affects me," he added hastily, when one of the reporters asked if he had suffered since he ended.

"I haven't been drinking fermented liquors for some time. But that doesn't affect the issue with me. No country on earth could ever force me to touch a drop of cocoa, but if any country forbade its citizens to drink cocoa I

should consider it wrong—an infringement of their liberty—and I should immediately want to drink it there. But there, I shouldn't talk too much about this point in a country which is my host."

At this point time out for a thoughtful pause—a "requent trick" with him—was taken by the author, who had previously told ship news reporters that prohibition here was merely part of a worldwide movement by capitalists to enslave the other classes, but that there would be a reaction—though he mentioned no future dates. The pause gave the observer time to note his voluminous figure, quite imposing when he stands up, though not so abundantly Johnsonian as his pictures lead one to expect. He has cascades of gray hair above a pinky beaming face, a rather straggly blond mustache and eyes that seem frequently to be taking up infinity in a serious way. His falsetto laugh prominent teeth and general aspect are rather Rooseveltian.

"The approach up the bay was very fine," he said, "and the overed effect of the skyline was striking. It would be absurd for a man to go to his grave without seeing America. I'm all for the Statue of Liberty. Coming up the bay I was tempted to take all the liquor on board and pour it out to the Statue in a final libation." Reference to the green color of the statue led to some observations on the way metals—in common with political parties—change color, and a final comment that "here you started out with the Declaration of Independence and ended up with prohibition." That was perhaps the most typically Chestertonian utterance he made. As to Ireland, he said that if home rule had been granted twenty years ago, the Irish question would have been settled.

On Foreign Policies.

"England has done many outrageous things to Ireland," he said, "but I think the Irish, starting out with a rightful cause, have gone far toward making it wrong by their conduct. During the war every Irishman at heart sympathized with the Allies. But instead of thinking that Europe was their mother, they opposed the Allies' cause because they considered England was their enemy. The people I don't understand are the 'home rule Unionists.' I should think at the prospect of home rule a Unionist would go into a convent and weep. The policy of reprisals conducted by the Government has been deplorable. I don't believe it represents the will of the people. I think the average Englishman is bored by the

Irish question—a little irritated, perhaps, by the Easter rebellion in the midst of the war.

"The laboring classes sympathize with the workers in Ireland for much the same reason they sympathize with them in Russia. That is due to ignorance, and the laboring class needs education in that respect. Our intelligent artisans know fully as much as any one else about the economic situation at home, but the aristocratic system, by which a small group has heretofore handed our foreign policy, has left the masses of the people with the ignorance of indifference toward foreign affairs. In France foreign relations always have been a democratic affair, and the poor Frenchman always has hated the Germans as much as has the wealthy Frenchman. All the French are on the side of Poland because they know—our laboring class doesn't—that Poland is an outpost of Western civilization in a tossing sea of Islam, Bolshevism and the yellow peril.

Changes in England.

"The war has precipitated some great changes in England of which we aren't fully aware yet. Official interference with the individual, brought about under the pretense of war regulations, has increased. On the other hand, Prussianism has been knocked out—people no longer talk Nietzsche. They do talk humanitarianism that isn't humane, and at least their sentimentalism is humane in intent—the Superman has gone out. However, I'm not in favor of any reconciliation immediately between the intellectual classes of England and those of Germany. I've known some agreeable German professors, but on the whole the professors and the literary men of Germany acted in a silly fashion over the war and they should be allowed to remember it."

He said that his sympathies lay with the working classes in the form of democratic Bolshevism, under which all property would be distributed and controlled by every one. He protested against any Socialistic system of governmental regulation of property, declaring that, "while a group of capitalists have brought evils, it would be no different and no better to have property controlled by another group who would be governmental officials."

Mr. Chesterton, who is accompanied by Mrs. Chesterton, and who will deliver a lecture soon in Boston on "The Ignorance of the Educated," said he did not expect to go further west than Chicago, since, "having seen both Jerusalem and Chicago, I think I shall have touched on the extremes of civilization."

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